THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Protection and preservation of tribal art and culture

1318. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to protect and preserve the tribal art and culture of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to establish a National Tribal Museum; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is formulating a comprehensive policy for the overall welfare and development of tribal communities. It will also incorporate measures to protect and preserve tribal art and culture in the country.

The Ministry have also produced a number of documentaries on tribes which are being shown on regular basis on Doordarshan. These documentaries, *inter-alia,* document the unique culture of these communities.

Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) is running a few tribes shops for marketing tribal arts and crafts and thereby ensuring better awareness of tribal art and craft items.

The Ministry of Culture also implement a scheme of "Promotion and dissemination of Tribal/Folk Art an Culture" under which financial assistance is provided to voluntary organizations and institutions engaged in the preservation and promotion of tribal/folk art and culture on a recurring or non-recurring basis.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs runs a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Research & Training-Grants-in-Aid to Tribal Research Institutes under which funds are provided to the State Governments on 50:50 sharing basis between State and Centre for various activities performed by these institutes. Most these institutes have set up tribal museums for exhibiting

tribal artefacts and promotion of tribal culture. A provision of Rs. 2.60 crore has been kept under the scheme for the year 2005-06.

ST status to tea garden labour community in Assam

1319. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for granting ST status to the Adivasis (Tea Garden Labour Community) and Koch-Rajbanshis of Assam; and

(b) if so, whether there is any Bill proposed to be tabled in the current Winter Session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The approved modalities for inclusion/exclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution require consultation with various agencies such as State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, which takes time.

(b) No, Sir.

Deaths due to malnutrition in tribal areas

1320.SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the death of thousands of children in the tribal areas of various States, especially Maharashtra due to malnutrition related problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such deaths in tribal areas, reported during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the action taken for controlling the above; and

(d) whether any policy decision has been taken or proposed to be taken to save tribal children from this complex situation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The figures relating to death of children due to malnutrition, if any, in various regions including tribal regions of a State/UT, are maintained by the concerned State/UT Governments. The deaths of children, including tribals, due to various factors, including malnutrition, in Melghat and